

National Park Service Northeast Region



West Virginia Parks and Partnerships



**WV Motto: Mountaineers
are Always Free**

**National Register Properties
as of December 2001: 894**

**National Historic Landmarks
(2002): 15**

**Land and Water
Conservation Funding
(2002): \$1,509,262**

**Urban Park and Recreation
Recovery Projects (2001): 1**

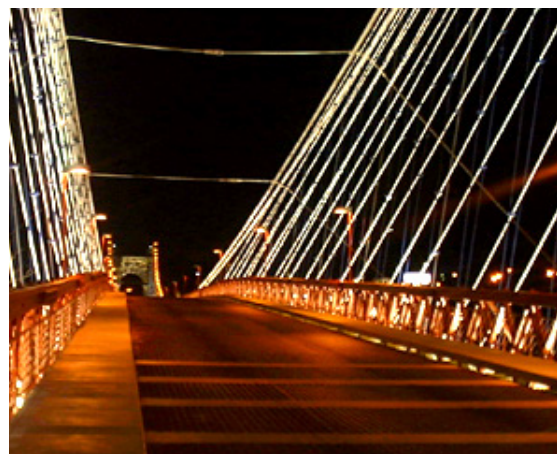
RTCA Projects (2002): 9

**National Park Service
Programs in the
Northeast Region**

**Marie Rust
Regional Director**

PARTNERSHIPS IN WEST VIRGINIA

The National Park Service and West Virginians are working together to conserve natural resources, create recreational opportunities and preserve West Virginia's rich heritage. In partnership, we have conserved a network of natural spaces: national parks and recreation areas, state parks and lands, natural landmarks and national rivers. Together, we have helped preserve West Virginia heritage with individual National Historic Landmarks, National Register designations, monuments conservation, and National Heritage Areas. The cornerstone of our work is a cooperative planning process that develops public and private partnerships to create outdoor recreational opportunities within an ethic of conservation. We understand how essential public involvement is to making our partnership work for all West Virginians and integrate it into everything we do.



The Wheeling Suspension Bridge is the oldest major long-span suspension bridge in the world with a span of more than 1000 feet. Photographer Alan Behr, District Six Bridge Engineer-May 2000

CREATING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

RIVERS AND TRAILS CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE (RTCA)

Through this program, NPS assists community groups, nonprofits and local and State governments to conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. Communities initiate the project and approach the Park Service for help with planning, publicizing and technical assistance to carry out the project. With NPS assistance, communities are able to conserve areas close to home for recreation, exercise and the enjoyment of cultural and historic resources. We have field offices in both Morgantown and Harper's Ferry.

The Mon River Trails Conservancy is being assisted with efforts to develop 50 miles of rail-trail project along the Monongahela



Ground has been broken on a 4.5 mile trail along Cheat Lake with RTCA help.

RTCA PROJECTS IN WEST VIRGINIA



1. PA-WV-OH Rail-Trail Linkages
2. Sheepskin Rail-Trail Development
3. WV Rails-to-Trails Council Pilot Program
4. Upper Mon River Water Trail
5. Cacapon & Lost Rivers Land Conservation Strategy
6. Cheat Canyon & Big Sandy Conservation
7. WV Ecotourism Trail
8. WV State Trails
9. Oak Hill WV Rail-Trail

River and Deckers Creek. We are assisting the Pocahontas Development Authority and local interests to identify re-uses for floodplain properties in Cass, West Virginia being acquired with Federal Emergency Management Agency funding. The Cheat River is a focus, with help going to the Cheat River of Promise Task Force to develop strategies to clean up acid mine drainage water quality problems; and helping an advisory group support recreational interests for the federal hydropower relicensing of the Cheat Lake dam.

Broader initiatives include helping with the West Virginia State Trails Plan, assisting the West Virginia Watershed Network support grassroots efforts of watershed associations.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (L&WCF)

The L&WCF program provides matching grants to States and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. It is administered by the West Virginia Development Office. The program is intended to create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities and to stimulate non-federal investments in the protection and maintenance of recreation resources across the United States. Since 1965 this partnership program has provided over West Virginia \$37.4 million in federal funding assistance to support over 360 projects at state and municipal park sites. Another \$1.5 million in funding was awarded in 2002. Through Section 6(f) of the L&WCF Act, all assisted sites are permanently protected for public outdoor recreation use.

URBAN PARK AND RECREATION RECOVERY (UPARR) PROGRAM

Many urban park and recreation systems have struggled to keep pace with the growing demands of park and recreation users with heavily used facilities quickly deteriorating. This has placed a tremendous burden on recreation providers to provide basic recreation facilities. UPARR grants are specifically targeted to assist with the rehabilitation of deteriorated park and recreation facilities and to plan systematically for their continuing operation and maintenance. In 2001 Parkersburg, West Virginia received \$150,500 in UPARR funding to help them rehabilitate the City Pool.

For general information on RTCA, visit:

www.ncrc.nps.gov/programs/rtca

For information on the projects in West Virginia contact:

Peggy Pings
304-293-2941 x2446
Peggy_Pings@nps.gov



COMMUNITY TOOLBOX

Groups interested in community organizing can find ideas, techniques and strategies for building a project in NPS's Community Toolbox. The material is available online at:

www.nps.gov/phso/rtcatoolbox

or contact:

Evelyn Swimmer
215-597-7947

For more information on L&WCF and the UPARR Program in WV contact Steve Smith at:

215-597-5199
Stephen_Smith@nps.gov

For more information on the UPARR programs across the nation go to:

www.nps.gov/uparr

The State Liaison Officer (SLO) represents the governor in managing the L&WCF, the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and other recreation grants. West Virginia's SLO is:

Bobby Lewis
Director, Community
Development
WV Development Office
Building 6, Room B-553
Charleston, WV 25305
304-558-4010

For more about science in West Virginia parks, contact:

Jesse M. Purvis
304-465-6513

For more information on science projects in the area, go to:

www.nps.gov/phso/science

For more information about Integrated Pest Management in West Virginia National Park units contact Wayne Millington at:

814-863-8352
Wayne_Millington@nps.gov

For guidance on Integrated Pest Management in the Northeast Region and lots of useful information about specific practices go to:

www.nps.gov/phso/ipm

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WEST VIRGINIA'S NATIONAL PARKS

SCIENCE IN THE PARKS

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), derived from coal, petroleum, partial combustion of fossil fuels and wood, and industrial activities, tend to accumulate in stream sediments. The area in and around the Gauley River has a long and continuing history of coal mining. More recently, oil and gas wells have been developed in the area. PAHs have toxic effects including liver tumors in bottom-feeding fish and deformities in invertebrates. If PAHs accumulate in fish tissue, this might explain the frequent anomalies noted in Gauley River fish. Consumption of such fish may pose a health risk to humans. NPS is conducting a project to study five sites in the Gauley River ecosystem. PAH concentration in stream water, sediment, and biota will be determined and relationships between these concentrations will be analyzed.

Two projects are underway at New River Gorge. In the first project, NPS scientists are working to determine the sources of fecal bacteria in the water. More than 200,000 visitors enjoy boating, fishing and swimming in the New River each year, yet the water has been documented to contain bacterial densities of more than 400 times the state standard. This project will determine the source of the bacteria -- whether it is human waste or waste from wildlife, dogs and cats. This information will be presented to state, county, and private agencies to focus efforts to eliminate these sources. Documentation of human sources would be persuasive evidence for obtaining funds to improve existing sewage collection and treatment facilities and for construction of new facilities. This would be far preferable to the alternative, which is to limit recreational use of the river.

A second project at New River Gorge concerns its mussel community. Approximately one-third of the native North American mussel fauna is threatened or endangered due to the introduction of alien species, habitat changes and water pollution. Mussels play an important role in maintaining water quality by filtering water as they feed on suspended particles. In this project, mussel beds will be mapped and sampled for species and density. Special effort will be made to ascertain the presence of the invasive alien zebra mussel and the endangered pink mucket.

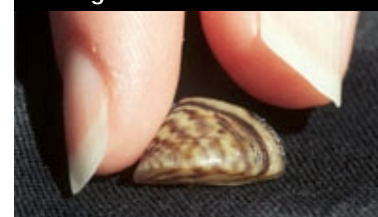
Comparison with the earlier survey will suggest trends in mussel populations. High quality color photos will be taken of various sizes of each species. These will be used for reference for managers and for visitor education.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

The National Park Service practices Integrated Pest Management, a process that controls pests through understanding pest biology and applying control methods that are most effective and



The presence of endangered pink mucket mussels (above, photo from USFWS) and of invasive zebra mussels (below, photo from USGS) are under investigation at New River.



least toxic. NPS scientists provided valuable advice, for example, about West Nile virus outbreaks, equine encephalitis and the threat of Foot and Mouth disease.

AIR QUALITY

The National Park Service is very active in the effort to protect air quality in the Northeast Region. The Northeast Region recently added a Regional Air Resources Coordinator to its staff to further its goals of protecting this vital resource. This coordinator provides services to parks in meeting their air resource management needs and responsibilities.

PRESERVATION IN THE PARKS

The **Archeological Sites Management Information System (ASMIS) program** collects and manages baseline data on the location, significance, and condition of all archeological resources in the Region. NPS is currently conducting an archeological overview and assessment at New River Gorge National River in partnership with the University of Kentucky. They are creating a predictive model for where archeological sites may be located in the park.

Parks are provided technical assistance for completing detailed research studies through the **Park History Program**. Planning will begin soon for a Historic Resource Study for New River Gorge.



Immature peregrine falcon on the rim of New River Gorge. New River Gorge National River is currently developing a General Management Plan.

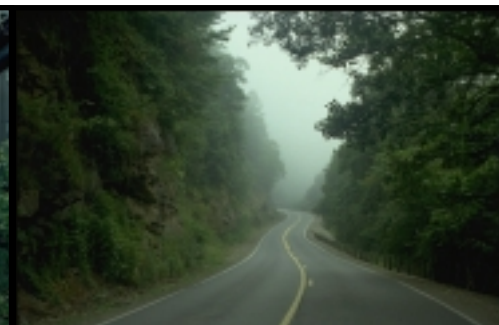
The **Cultural Landscapes Inventory**, an evaluated inventory of all cultural landscapes within the national park system, is underway at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and New River Gorge National River. New River's cultural landscapes range from mining sites and industrial boomtowns to pre-industrial farmsteads to parks and recreational campgrounds. Each completed inventory provides a brief landscape history, an existing conditions basemap, photographs, and a description of the historic landscape's character-defining features.

PLANNING IN WEST VIRGINIA PARKS

The National Park Service conducts General Management Planning (GMP) to ensure that the decisions it makes are as effective and efficient as possible in carrying out the NPS mission. The GMP for New River Gorge began development in October 2002.

PRESERVING WEST VIRGINIA'S RICH HERITAGE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

A National Heritage Area is a part of our country's landscape that has been recognized by the U.S. Congress for its unique contribution to the American experience. It may be developed around a common



Two images from the National Coal Heritage Area. This NHA is promoting local planning, preservation and interpretation efforts.

For information on Air Quality issues in the Northeast Region contact Holly S. Salazer, our new Regional Air Resources Coordinator for the Region, at:

215-597-4623
Holly_Salazer@nps.gov

For more information on the Cultural Landscape Program contact Shaun Eyring at:

215-597- 8850
Shaun_Eyring@nps.gov

For more about the Park History Program contact Cliff Tobias at:

215-597-9970
Cliff_Tobias@nps.gov

For more about the Park Archeology Program contact Allen Cooper at:

215-597-1099
Allen_Cooper@nps.gov

For more about Park Planning contact Terry Moore at:

215-597-6412
Terrence_Moore@nps.gov

For more information about National Heritage Areas contact Peter Samuel at:

215-597-1848
Peter_Samuel@nps.gov



Hemlocks at Cathedral Park, a National Natural Landmark which is a state park. (Photo: WV Division of Natural Resources)

Within the state government, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) works to preserve valuable resources and interacts with NPS on many projects. West Virginia's SHPO is:

Nancy Herholdt
Division of Culture and History
1900 Kanawha Boulevard E.
Capitol Complex
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
304-558-0220

For more information about the National Natural Landmarks program, contact Michele Batcheller at:

(814) 863-9414
Michele_Batcheller@nps.gov

theme or an industry that influenced the culture and history of that region. It may celebrate a critical moment in history, a cultural resource or a large-scale natural resource. It is formed by residents in partnership with state and local government. The Northeast Region's Philadelphia office gives technical assistance to West Virginia's two National Heritage Areas.

The cultural geography of the **National Coal Heritage Area** has been profoundly influenced over the last 125 years by coal mines, mining companies, company towns, immigrant workers and labor unions. The NHA covers eleven counties in West Virginia and 5,300 square miles. An early action challenge grant program was established to encourage local efforts in preserving and interpreting key coal resources in the vast region. The Heritage Area has worked with NPS to complete their Management Plan/EIS that will provide the structure for projects throughout the area. 304-558-0220 x148

Wheeling once marked the northernmost navigable port on the Ohio River. It became a thriving commercial, industrial and cultural center, and by 1818 was the terminus of the National Road, our nation's first highway. The **Wheeling National Heritage Area** has accomplished numerous construction projects over the past eight years in partnership with various entities in the region. These include: the Wheeling Artisan Center, the Robert C. Byrd Intermodal Transportation Center the Wheeling Heritage Port, the Wheeling Stamping building and the development of historic interpretive exhibits and programs in partnership with others. The NPS is working with the Wheeling National Heritage Area to revise their 1992 Management Plan. 304-232-3087

WEST VIRGINIA'S NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARKS (NNL)

This program supports voluntary preservation of sites that illustrate the geological and ecological history of the United States. The designation is made after an in-depth study of a potential site; all new designations must have owner permission. The present NNLs include public and private lands with a variety of uses, including nature preserves, agricultural uses, commercial ventures and



Cranberry Glades Botanical Area, a National Natural Landmark, contains bog forest, shrub thickets and open glade. The natural cold air drainage and moist substrate provide the environment the cranberries need to thrive. (Photos: National Forest Service)

others. Through this program, NPS staff find technical specialists to advise landowners on how to care for their special sites. While funding for projects is not the norm, in some cases, regional coordinators have been successful in helping NNL owners obtain small grants. There are 14 registered NNLs in West Virginia in 7 different counties.

For more information on National Historic Landmarks contact Bill Bolger at:

215-597-1649

Bill_Bolger@nps.gov

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS (NHL)

National Historic Landmarks are sites, buildings and objects that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating and interpreting the heritage of the United States. NPS offers technical and funding assistance to the private owners of these landmarks, monitors the landmarks' conditions and reports biennially to Congress on threatened NHLs. One West Virginia NHL, the Greenbrier, is part of White Sulphur Springs resort. The Greenbrier is the main hotel of the resort. It was used to house prisoners of war during World War II and had secret underground chambers built during the Cold War to accommodate the U.S. Congress in the event of a nuclear catastrophe.



Young visitors at West Virginia Independence Hall NHL in Wheeling, WV. (Photo: Margaret Brennan)

MONUMENT RESEARCH & PRESERVATION

This program provides comprehensive assistance in the interpretation and care of public sculpture, commemorative monuments, and historic cemeteries for the benefit of National Park units, other government agencies, and other constituents. NPS staff designs and implements training courses, conferences, and print and web-based publications. Staff also provides direct project assistance to these various groups, ranging from entities with a single statue to historic burial grounds with hundreds or thousands of memorial monuments to preserve.

For more on Monument Research and Preservation, contact Dennis Montagna at:

215-597-5824

Dennis_Montagna@nps.gov

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY/HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD/HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPE SURVEY (HABS/HAER/HALS)

HABS/HAER/HALS is an integral component of the federal government's commitment to historic preservation. Through this program, NPS ensures that a uniform and thorough record (including measured drawings, written histories and large-format photographs) is made of all nationally significant resources that are affected by federal undertakings. These records are then stored in the Library of Congress where they contribute to the memory of our national history.

For more information about the HABS/HAER/HALS program contact Catherine Turton at:

(215) 597-1726

Catherine_Turton @nps.gov



Photos from the HABS/HAER collection, left to right: Locust Hill (Wheatland); Rehoboth Church (Union); Hilliard Farmhouse (Shepardstown); Woodberry (Leetown)

For more information about the Historic Surplus Property Program, visit:

www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/hspp_p.htm

Or contact Lisa McCann at:

215-597-0651

Lisa_McCann@nps.gov

For more information about Save America's Treasures, including application information, visit:

www2.cr.nps.gov/treasures/

For information about Challenge Cost Share Program and Save America's Treasures, contact Bonnie Halda at:

215-597-5028,

Bonnie_Halda@nps.gov

For more information, visit:

www.nps.gov/phso

or contact:

Joe DiBello

National Park Service

200 Chestnut St, 3rd Floor

Philadelphia PA 19106

215-597-1581

Joe_DiBello@nps.gov

*Produced by Kathleen Karhnak
Information Technology Specialist*

*All photos NPS unless noted.
December, 2002*

HISTORIC SURPLUS PROPERTY

The Historic Surplus Property Program allows state, county and local governments to obtain surplus federal properties at no cost if the property is listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Historic properties transferred by General Services Administration (GSA) under this program may be used for public facilities, such as museums and government offices; properties can also be leased to not-for-profit organizations and to developers who may be eligible to take advantage of federal preservation tax incentives for historic buildings. NPS assists the GSA with the property transfer and plays an important role in ensuring the building is properly rehabilitated and maintained. In West Virginia, the R.T. Price House in Williamson was transferred to the city and will be converted into a bed and breakfast along the Hatfield-McCoy Trail System.

SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES & CHALLENGE COST SHARE PROGRAM

NPS provides 50-50 matching grants to partner groups through these two programs. Save America's Treasures funds projects that preserve and conserve nationally significant historic artifacts, structures and sites. Challenge Cost Share Program provides funding for preserving natural, recreational and cultural resources. Projects may be inside or outside park boundaries. West Virginia received a grant from Save America's Treasures in 2000. This \$500,000 grant was used to restore the B&O Roundhouse Complex in Martinsburg. The building will be converted into a convention and events center.

MORE PARTNERSHIPS IN WEST VIRGINIA

You've read highlights about National Park Service activity in West Virginia. It is not a complete or detailed list. Please contact us if you would like more information about these projects or contact Marie Rust, Director of the Northeast Region if you would like to suggest or explore ideas for future partnership initiatives.



The B&O Roundhouse Complex in Martinsburg is receiving much-needed renovations thanks to a number of grants, including one from Save America's Treasures. The complex will be used as a convention and events center. (Photo copyright Angel Crane, NSBO)